Great Eared Nightjar Pet: The Dragon Bird of the Night

Introduction

When you think of pet birds, parrots, macaws, and canaries usually come to mind. But have you ever heard of the Great Eared Nightjar, a bird that looks like a miniature dragon? Known for its mysterious nocturnal lifestyle and enchanting appearance, the Great Eared Nightjar has gained massive attention on social media as the “dragon bird nightjar.”

But here’s the big question: Can you keep a Great Eared Nightjar as a pet? Let’s explore its fascinating world, appearance, habitat, diet, and whether it really belongs in your home—or the wild.

Read the full detailed guide here: [The Great-Eared Nightjar – Your Pet Planet]

What Makes the Great Eared Nightjar Special?

Looks like a baby dragon with feather tufts shaped like ears

Native to India, Vietnam, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines

Largest nightjar species, measuring 21–41 cm and weighing up to 150 grams

Famous for its camouflage ability—it can blend into dry leaves like magic

Related Internal Link: Baby Cockroach Facts Every Homeowner Should Know

Can You Have a Great Eared Nightjar as a Pet?

The truth is—no. Despite its viral popularity, the Great Eared Nightjar does not make a good pet.

Reasons:

- Nocturnal nature: They are active at night, not during the day
- Special diet: Needs live insects like moths, termites, beetles
- Loud calls: Their screeching sounds echo through forests at night
- Conservation concerns: Many subspecies are vulnerable due to habitat loss
- Instead of trying to keep them at home, support wildlife organizations that help conserve their habitats.
- External Reference: BirdLife International – Nightjars

Great Eared Nightjar Habitat & Lifestyle

- Habitat: Tropical forests near rivers and wetlands
- Nesting: Lays a single egg directly on the forest floor, camouflaged with leaves
- Behavior: Silent flight, incredible stealth, ambush predator of insects
- Range: South Asia, Southeast Asia, parts of Indonesia
- Interesting fact: The Great Eared Nightjar scream sounds like a mystical creature from a fantasy movie.

Nightjar as a Mythical Creature

- Because of its dragon-like appearance, the bird has earned nicknames like:
- Dragon Bird
- Fantasy Bird
- Mythical Night Guardian

It’s no wonder that birdwatchers and fantasy lovers find this bird so enchanting.

Should You Buy a Great Eared Nightjar?

Short answer: No, it’s illegal and unethical.

Protected by wildlife laws in many countries

Better admired through eco-tourism, photography, and documentaries

External Source: Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Great Eared Nightjar Facts for Bird Lovers

- Known scientifically as Lyncornis macrotis
- First described in 1831 by Irish zoologist William Jardine
- Masters of camouflage—sometimes invisible even a few feet away
- Average lifespan: 4–12 years depending on region
- Unlike owls, they catch prey with their beaks, not talons

FAQs About the Great Eared Nightjar Pet

Q1. Is it legal to own a Great Eared Nightjar in the USA?
No. They are wild birds protected by conservation laws.

Q2. Why does the Great Eared Nightjar look like a dragon?
Its long feathers, ear-like tufts, and sharp eyes give it a mythical look.

Q3. What do Great Eared Nightjars eat?
Mainly insects: beetles, moths, and termites.

Q4. Do Great Eared Nightjars make good pets?
No. They are nocturnal and require wild environments to survive.

Q5. Where can I see a Great Eared Nightjar in the wild?
Forests of India, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

Conclusion

The Great Eared Nightjar pet may sound like a fantasy dream, but in reality, this bird belongs in the wild—not a cage. With its unique dragon-like look and mysterious lifestyle, it has captured the imagination of millions online.

Instead of trying to own one, let's appreciate it through birdwatching, photography, and educational content. By protecting their forests, we ensure future generations can still marvel at this dragon bird of the night.

Learn more here: The Great-Eared Nightjar Guide – Your Pet Planet